Medicare.gov

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The Official U.S. Government Site for People with Medicare

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Medicare.gov has useful information for people with Medicare and those who help them make health care decisions. The most frequently used topics are:

★ **Search Tools**
Search for information on health plans, nursing homes, dialysis facilities, Medigap policies, participating physicians and suppliers, phone contacts, and Medicare activities in your area.

★ **Medicare Basics**
Get information on coverage, eligibility, enrollment, your Medicare card, address changes, and help with health care costs.

★ **Medicare Plan Choices**
Learn about the Original Medicare Plan, Medicare + Choice Plans (managed care plans and Private Fee-for-Service plans), and Medigap policies. You can also compare health plans available in your area.

★ **Nursing Homes**
Get information on payment, patient rights, and alternatives to nursing homes. You can also compare nursing homes in your area and use the checklist to narrow down your choices.

★ **Helpful Contacts**
Find phone numbers and websites for help in answering your questions.

★ **Publications**
Look at, order, or download Medicare and health-related publications.

★ **Fraud and Abuse**
Learn how to recognize and prevent fraud and abuse.

★ **Health Information**
Get important information and links to health websites to help you stay healthy.

Search Tools to Find Local Medicare Information

Medicare Personal Plan Finder
Answer simple questions and get a personalized health plan summary page with information to help you compare health plans in your area and narrow down your choices.

Nursing Home Compare
Compare nursing homes in your area by looking at nursing home characteristics, state inspection results, and nursing staff information.

Prescription Drug Assistance Programs
Get information about programs that offer discounts or free medication to individuals in need.

Participating Physician Directory
Find Medicare participating physicians in your area.

Participating Supplier Directory
Find Medicare participating suppliers in your area.

Local Medicare Events
Get details about events on Medicare-related topics in your area, and information about how you can attend.

Dialysis Facility Compare
Compare dialysis facilities in your area by looking at quality and center characteristics.

Medicare Health Plan Compare
Shop for health plans by comparing costs, benefits, quality, and plan member disenrollment rates.

Medigap Compare
Find supplemental insurance policies available in your area to cover expenses not paid for by the Original Medicare Plan.

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Reaching More People with Medicare:

- Medicare information is available in Spanish and Chinese.
- "Screen Reader" technology allows people with low vision or blindness to have quick, reliable access to the information they need.
- Easy print format allows visitors to print all pages within each section without links and extra text.
- The Frequently Asked Questions section allows visitors to search by category or phrase to quickly find answers to their questions. If visitors are unable to find answers, they can submit questions. This section also includes a subscription service, which notifies users when questions are updated.

Seniors are Surfing the Web

More and more, people with Medicare and those who will soon be eligible for Medicare use the Internet. Research shows that Internet use is growing among people age 50 and older:

- Internet access among people with Medicare has increased dramatically from 1997 to 2001. Findings from the CMS-sponsored Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey indicate that the percentage of people with Medicare reporting access to the Internet climbed from 6.8% in 1997 to 31% in 2001.

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www.medicare.gov

Who is the target audience for www.medicare.gov?

Our main target audience is:

- People with Medicare
- Family, friends, and others who care for people with Medicare and help them make their health care decisions.

Anyone can use www.medicare.gov to learn more about Medicare.

For More Information:

Call 1-800-MEDICARE
(1-800-633-4227)

TTY/TDD: 1-877-486-2048
For the hearing and speech impaired

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